

ANNOUNCEMENT

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MONTY'S TIRE SHOP

VIEWS OF MAYORS ON MUNICIPAL PHONE SYSTEM

When the raise in telephone rates was announced July 30, there was some strong objection, and the matter was discussed at the meeting of the city council August 4. In fact, there was a committee appointed to look into the matter of a municipal telephone.

The mayor of Eugene, C. O. Peterson writes: "The city of Eugene has taken no concentrated action in regard to putting in of an independent system. Of course there is more or less complaint about the high rates, but I believe the general opinion is centered on the purpose of the action of the public service commission after a hearing is had commencing August 27.

Dan Johnson, city attorney of Albany had heard that everybody in Salem was not satisfied with the advance in rates put in effect by the federal government and writes as follows: "I presume you have been advised of the hearing to be held in Portland, August 27, before the public service commission, upon its own motion. I have been instructed by our city council to attend this meeting, and as the interests of Albany and Salem are similar, I thought perhaps we might co-operate to some extent at the hearing. I shall be glad to call on you before the hearing and discuss the matter."

STATE HOUSE NEWS

The Portland Railway, Light & Power company has today filed with the public service commission a voluminous statement of valuations, receipts and expenditures as the basis for a petition for an increase of revenues within the city of Portland. This statement shows that the valuation of all their properties in Portland, as fixed by the commission itself, is \$18,568,073.53, and the summary of statistics goes to show that the net earnings of the system during the current year will be approximately \$392,000, or about 2 per cent on their valuation. The petition goes on to cite that during the year 1918 the wage scale of employees was raised to range from 46 to 50 cents an hour and that during the present season the national war board had granted another increase to employees of about 12 per cent. This it is estimated will add not less than \$350,000 to the operating expenses for the year. While there has been no great increase in traffic, it is shown that there has been a tremendous increase of operating expense. In the year, 1915, the operating expenses in Portland amounted to \$1,707,912.35, while for the twelve months ending June 30, 1919, they aggregated \$3,177,791.19. While the company makes no specific rate or increase in their petition, they call attention to the fact that the present fares are unjust and inadequate, and their petition for such an increase of revenue as will produce a return of not less than 7 per cent on their valuations. To this end they ask for an immediate hearing and investigation in Portland.

The weekly report of the industrial accident commission shows that there were 543 accidents in the state during the week, seven of them resulting fatally. These were Paul Schonness, lumber worker, Mill City; Frank Anderson, brakeman, Olney; B. L. Akers, ironman, Pendleton; George Allen, lumber worker, Cottage Grove; Samuel McQueen, logger, Holly; H. Rhodes, ship builder, Portland; Albert Alquist, pedestrian struck by train, Marshfield. Of the total number 502 were subject to the provisions of the compensation act.

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FLICKERS

The clergy is wrought up over the Silesian question perhaps more than anybody else in Germany. A letter from Pastor Friebe of the parish of Droschkau declares that 12,000 persons in his district are coming under Polish will, although they have been proven by a test vote to be German-feeling. Likewise the North German conference recently adopted a resolution objecting to the peace terms, and expressing the hope that Christianity could find a way of reconciling nations. This body was especially wrought up over the Silesian question.

As has been said before, the German national assembly differs little from other national legislative bodies in the matter of long-winded discussion. But, it perhaps required a record when in the course of the past week, with vital economic questions on hand, it spent a long time discussing the price of cherries and the printing of a new issue of stamps commemorative of the assembly.

The revolution in Germany may—may be used wisely—do away with tips for servants.

A strong movement is now afoot to abolish tipping, and some hotels and cafes have had moderate success therewith. But, the public, however, still pays the bill.

In some places, the workers council and the management have agreed that a 10 per cent addition shall be placed on all bills then 10 per cent extra to go to the waiters in lieu of their usual tips. While the workers in such cafes and hotels claimed they'd be satisfied with the system, it is still noted that, without tips, service is inclined to be rather lax. Moreover, in some cases, hotels have found it convenient to make even more than a 10 per cent increase in prices under the plea of higher wages for employees, whereas the employees maintain that they have had only part of the added percentage.

Germany is soon to experience a cigarette famine unless it gets fresh imports of tobacco from other lands. It's present supply of cigarette tobacco is so low that probably next month will witness the disappearance of the real German cigarette made from Turkish or Egyptian tobacco. At present, cigarettes cost about three or four cents apiece whereas before the war they cost a small fraction of a cent apiece.

Recently a quantity of American cigarettes has appeared here, having been smuggled in from the Coblenz region where they were either stolen from the American commissary or bought from American soldiers.

Demolition of what is left of the German army will release 41,000,000 meters of cloth, to say nothing of hundreds of thousands of pair of shoes. As a result, the government expects that there will be a material decrease in the price of clothes and shoes.

It proposes to distribute the cloth and shoes, which had been stored up against further prosecution of the war, at low prices to deserving families. Rates will be made according to the size of the family.

Out of the sordid annals of the Berlin criminal courts came today the story of a "Black Hand" persecution which had its inception in the recent anti-Semitic agitation here.

Karl Rietze, recently returned from a Russian prison camp, was accused of trying to extort several hundred thousand marks from two Jewish merchants under threat of death.

Rietze told the court he was at a loss to know why he had sent the merchant "Black Hand" letters, saying they must deliver packets of money—stipulated pieces or suffer the consequences. But, he did plead that his mind had been affected by anti-Semitic propaganda. He had read a number of the pogrom pamphlets, and then had gone to the place of publication, where about twenty persons were congregated. There the Jews should be oppressed, just as in Russia, and that money should be extorted from them wherewith to continue the propaganda work.

Rietze said that he supposed this suggestion had been the inspiration for his own deed, for he at once set about to send letters, signed the "Secret Alliance" to the merchants. While they were warned not to have anyone accompany them, they at once called in the police and had Rietze apprehended when he came to receive the decoy packet of marks.

Communism may come to the aid of cupid here.

Fearing that returning soldiers will be deterred from marrying and making homes for themselves because of the high cost of furniture an enterprising communist has suggested that the government communize the old furniture business. He says the stores charge too much, whereas if the government took them over, there'd be nothing in the way of returning soldiers making homes for themselves.

HAD WHISKEY ABOARD.

San Francisco, Aug. 19.—(United Press.)—John Bartley, exiled from the United States, is migrating to China in thousand-case lots. With the French champagne producing districts ravaged by war, there is such large demand throughout the Orient for California champagnes and other American liquors that the firms caught with tremendous supplies have a splendid chance to "get out from under" at a splendid profit before the Sheppard act becomes effective in January.

Protesting against additional work without additional pay, 16 women laundry workers in Spokane went on strike.

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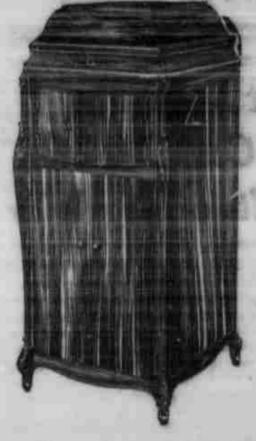


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